

Salmon may just visit but they are neighbors, too!

By Sharon Bennett, Seattle Salmon Recovery Team

Did you know that salmon visit many of our neighborhoods? Thousands of salmon travel along the 107 miles of shorelines in Seattle each year, feeding and resting as they go. Salmon also use about four miles of the City's urban creeks. All of us can help make their stays in our neighborhoods more pleasant and healthy.


Recently, the Mayor and Seattle City Council strengthened the City's commitment to recovering threatened Chinook salmon. City departments will develop an "Urban Blueprint," capturing what has been learned about the Chinooks' needs as they travel through our urban environment. It will also describe the City's approach to making wise investments in habitat restoration over time. To learn more about the City's efforts and public involvement opportunities, call Sarah McKearnan at 615-0567 or send e-mail to sarah.mckearnan@ci.seattle.wa.us.

We all need to be stewards of our salmon runs. People who own or rent property along urban shorelines can improve habitat with landscaping and erosion control practices. To learn more, come to one of Seattle Public Utilities' annual

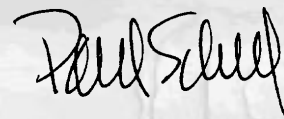
Creekside Living Workshops. For more information, call Dotty DeCoster at 684-8745 or send e-mail to dotty.decoaster@ci.seattle.wa.us.

Non-shoreline property owners can also do a world of good for salmon. At home, you can help by conserving water; using native plants in your yard; using fewer hazardous chemicals; and avoiding putting anything down storm drains. These and other salmon friendly practices can be found at www.cityofseattle.net/util/RESCONS/ and www.cityofseattle.net/salmon/practices on the Web.

Finally, volunteer groups in many neighborhoods are pitching in by helping to count salmon, revegetate banks, and plant trees. The regional Salmon Information Center lists volunteer activities inside and outside Seattle. For more information, call 1-877-SALMON9 or go to www.salmoninfo.org on the Web.

If we all do our part through simple everyday actions, we'll be good neighbors to salmon and help future generations enjoy their visits, too. 

"To the people of Seattle, salmon are an icon representing how we thrive within our environment. A great many volunteers have been helping to restore salmon habitat, and to these folks we owe a special thanks."



— Mayor Paul Schell

Restoration of the Roxhill Park bog

By Lynn Hooghiemstra, *Roxhill Park Wetland Restoration*

On a gorgeous Sunday in November, my family and I joined a team of 80 other volunteers to participate in the wetland restoration at Roxhill Park (located at 29th Avenue SW & SW Barton Street). A considerable group of people from the Westwood neighborhood showed up, as well as a surprising number from other neighborhoods, to brave the ankle deep mud and plant native wetland plants around the ponds.

We struck up conversations over hot coffee and shared mud stories. Some who had attended the planting the week before told me they were still trying to wash the mud off their clothes, but the smiles told me this was not a big deal. The wetland restoration was what really mattered to them, and meeting new people was an added bonus.

Organized by the Westwood Neighborhood Council, and with the support of the Department of Neighborhoods through a Neighborhood Matching Fund award and many other sponsors, the wetland is slowly returning to a more natural state.

Community members first suggested this project in the early 1990's, to reverse the effects of tons of fill brought to the site in the 1960's. As a park, the ground was just too wet and soggy to be of much fun for kids to play on. It really needed to be in its natural state — a wetland peat bog.

The bog at Roxhill Park is the headwaters of Longfellow Creek. The cleaner, steadier water flow that will result from this restoration will benefit salmon habitat downstream.

Last year the Westwood Neighborhood Council applied for and received a Neighborhood Matching Fund award to pay for a portion of the restoration. The Starflower Foundation partnered with the Council to provide technical support and purchase the majority of the plants for the project. Various local businesses donated funds, food, coffee, and volunteers.

Seattle Parks and Recreation had already started to plan for bog restoration with the help of EDAW\Anderson & Ray Landscape Architects. In September 2000, Seattle Parks and Recreation excavated part of Roxhill Park, getting it ready for the fall community planting.

To date over 300 volunteers of all ages have planted more than 10,000 native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and grasses on the three-acre site during four community-organized plantings. On one very blustery day in December, some 75 volunteers were able to

spread mulch to protect the tender greens just stuck into the ground. Hot coffee and tea along with a steady supply of snacks kept spirits up and the party going.

The overwhelming volunteer turnout included a large contingent of enthusiastic youth, due in large part to the efforts of the project's steering committee and the outreach effort headed by Michelle Alexander. Hundreds of flyers were printed and handed out, dozens of posters were put up in businesses and schools, hundreds of phone calls were made, and a relationship was built with the West Seattle Herald. People who came to help and braved the weather and the mud felt like they were contributing to something tangible — something that would benefit the environment and have lasting benefit for the community.

Long-range stewardship activities include monthly work parties on the second Saturday of each month (beginning March 10) and an educational component called the Bogkeepers Program, which involves children and adults and emphasizes the importance of ecology and responsible stewardship of the land we live on. New volunteers are always welcome!

For more information about restoration of the Roxhill Bog Park, call Mary Quackenbush at 938-1318 or go to www.scn.org/westwood on the Web.




Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail

The Westwood/Highland Park and Delridge Neighborhood Plans included the concept of creating a public trail that would follow the three-mile length of Longfellow Creek, beginning at Roxhill Park and ending near the West Seattle Bridge. The trail would link neighborhoods and public open space along the way. From these plans, the Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail was born!

Last year, the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association, Longfellow Creek Advisory Council, and Westwood Neighborhood Council successfully applied for a \$100,000 award from the Neighborhood Matching Fund. The award, along with private contributions will make it possible to de-



sign the trail, build several segments of trail, and install amenities at selected locations. The design process is laying the foundation to reclaim and enhance the creek corridor by creating a comprehensive trail system that enhances public access by linking to existing parks and community attractions. Highlights along the way include the Roxhill Bog, the Sealth/Denny Athletic Fields adjacent to Chief Sealth High School and Denny Middle School, and Greg Davis Park, a passive creekside park at 26th Avenue SW & SW Brandon Street.

For more information about the Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail, call Gary Sink or Terry Griffith at 937-1971 or send e-mail to wncc@scn.org. 

The ultimate recycle event

By Michelle White, Citizens Service Bureau, Department of Neighborhoods


A woman called the Citizens Service Bureau recently to request assistance with sixty — yes, six-zero — bags of leaves she had filled and lined up along the sidewalk at her house. It seems the park nearby has deciduous trees with lots of fallen leaves that all blew up to her lawn. She had bagged many more leaves than her yard-waste service would collect.

The complaint investigator assigned to the case called the Seattle Parks and Recreation area maintenance manager who agreed to pick up one truckload but no more. With many more bags left and more to come in the future, the complaint investigator was directed to the Department of Neighborhoods' P-Patch Program.

Hooray! P-Patch came through with flying colors! One of the volunteers from a neighborhood P-Patch garden picked up all the remaining leaves and the resident will call him again when more leaves appear.

The Citizens Service Bureau (CSB) helps Seattle citizens connect to and make use of City government, resolves problems for residents and business people,




and mediates disputes between dissatisfied citizens and City departments. For more information, call the CSB at 684-8811, send e-mail to city.action@ci.seattle.wa.us, go to www.cityofseattle.net/don/csb.htm on the Web, or stop by the CSB office on the first floor of the Municipal Building (600 4th Avenue). 

CITIZENS SERVICE BUREAU ON THE MOVE!

The Citizens Service Bureau (CSB) is moving to a new location in the Seattle Municipal Building. After 27 years in a small space tucked behind the elevators on the first floor of City Hall, the City's complaint and information office is moving west!

Starting Monday, February 5, you will find the CSB in their new home at the northwest end of the first floor of the Seattle Municipal Building. Although the room number and street address remain the same, the CSB will be co-located in new space with the Utility Service Center, which is part of Seattle Public Utilities, and the Business Licenses group, which is part of the Finance Department.

The CSB will be located in this space for approximately two years while the new City Hall is being constructed. Please feel free to drop by or call 684-8811, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. You can also e-mail your questions or complaints about City of Seattle government issues to city.action@ci.seattle.wa.us. 

P-Patch gardens are salmon friendly — yours can be, too!

By Wendy McClure, Department of Neighborhoods

As Seattle residents strive to protect salmon from urban pollutants, P-Patch gardeners are leading the way. Fifty-six P-Patch sites across Seattle are using organic gardening methods and water conservation techniques that protect water quality and reduce runoff into Seattle's water system.

Gardening without pesticides is one of the best things you can do to reduce environmental impacts on salmon. Pes-



A rooftop rainwater collection system satisfies over one-quarter of the water requirements of Cascade P-Patch gardeners.

ticide residues travel into the wastewater through runoff and can reach salmon-bearing streams, harming the salmon's breeding habitat. At P-Patch sites, we use organic gardening methods, such as active composting to eliminate the need for pesticides by fostering healthy plants through active, healthy living soil.

Composting builds soil life and health, providing plants with optimal growing conditions and the micronutrients they need to thrive. Plants grown in soil rich in organic matter are healthier, less attractive to

pests, and more able to resist pests that do show up. Planting a wide array of vegetables and flowers attracts benefi-

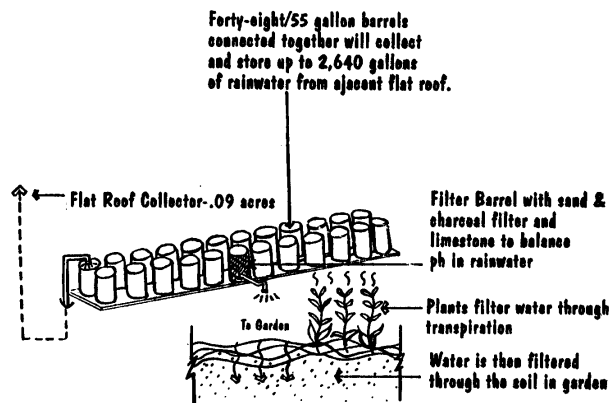
cial insects that reduce the harmful insect population. So, who needs pesticides when the plants are healthy? Certainly not the salmon!

Conserving water, preserving permeable surfaces, and reducing runoff are additional benefits conferred by organic gardening at P-Patch sites. Gardeners use mulches and cover crops to protect soil in winter, reducing runoff in winter and during early spring rains. Water is cleansed by circulation through rich soils, whereas paved areas such as streets and parking lots allow water to run off and pollutants in it go directly into storm drains, streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.

Mulching helps plants retain water in the drier months, keeps soil cooler, and reduces the amount of water plants need to keep growing through the hotter months. Mulch breaks down over time, adding organic matter to the soil it covers. The soil is able to retain more moisture when it is rich in organic matter, which reduces runoff. Furthermore, mulch reduces demand on the water supply

and water is retained in streams and rivers for when the salmon need sufficient flows to return to spawning areas.

Watering in the morning before 10 a.m. or in the evening is best for plants and for water conservation. Evaporation is reduced and the water gets to the plants. Some gardeners have invested in drip irrigation lines to reduce water use further but get water directly to plants.



Unique filtration system cleans rooftop rainwater of impurities.

Conservation is the cost-effective way to meet water demand in our region. Rainwater catchment systems at P-Patch gardens have reduced demand for water from the City's water system. The systems are covered to prevent mosquitoes from breeding, prevent evaporation, and make much needed water available in the drier summer months.

At Cascade P-Patch, gardeners benefit from a rooftop rainwater collection sys-



Bradner gardeners honor the salmon through public art.



The compost bin at Bradner Gardens Park recycles garden waste for mulch that will conserve water and build the soil.

tem and a large cistern. The rainwater is collected from the roof and piped to 48 55-gallon barrels, which are piped to the garden's faucets. These faucets irrigate a portion of the garden, meeting about 26% of the water demand with rainwater.

(P-Patch Gardens continued on next page)

(P-Patch Gardens continued from previous page)

Stream restoration work at South Park Marra Farm has renewed the hopes of South Park residents that fish will once again venture up Hamm Creek. This County-owned land was once a truck farm that sold produce at Pike Place Market. The large food-growing area is collectively managed by



Leaf mold cages at Bradner Gardens Park await spring digging.

South Park Marra Farm coalition members to grow produce and develop job skills. The South Park P-Patch is also located there. And now the site is playing a role in salmon-friendly gardening through an ambitious stream restoration project. Gardeners and community residents have teamed up to recreate salmon habitat in recently daylighted streams near the gardens. A large buffer area will be planted with native plants to help restore the shaded habitat the salmon need for spawning and early development of new hatches. Visualize salmon returning to Hamm Creek!

There are so many ways that you can help keep salmon viable in the natural world of the Pacific Northwest. Your help as an organic gardener can have a big impact. Reject pesticides in favor of earth-friendly methods, reduce your water consumption, and conserve water by mulching. Then, consider water collection systems and work to promote habitat restoration. You will be healthier, your garden will grow better, and the salmon habitat you save will leave a better environment for future generations of salmon and the people in our communities.



Gentle reminders are good things!

For more information about the gardens in this article, call the P-Patch Program at 684-0264, send e-mail to wendy.mcclure@ci.seattle.wa.us, or go to cityofseattle.net/don/ on the Web. For more salmon friendly gardening resources, go to cityofseattle.net/util/RESCONS/plantNaturally/default.htm on the Web. ♻️

Neighbor Appreciation Day was a huge success!

The seventh annual Neighbor Appreciation Day was Saturday, February 10. The day was marked by pancake breakfasts, block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, community potlucks, workshops, tours, and work parties.

To help people reach out to their neighbors, the Department of



This year's Neighbor Appreciation Day card is designed by Meuy Seng Saelee, a student at John Muir Elementary School.



Volunteers from Seattle Pacific University joined a Friends of Northeast Queen Anne Parks work party at 5th Avenue North & Blaine Street.

Neighborhoods and SAFECO teamed up to make free greeting cards available. This year's card features the artwork of Meuy Seng Saelee, a fourth grade student at John Muir Elementary School, and says "Thank you, neighbor!" inside.

Although Neighbor Appreciation Day is past, it's never too late to acknowledge

the good things your neighbors do. A limited number of cards are still available at Neighborhood Service Centers throughout Seattle and downtown at the Citizens Service Bureau on the first floor of the Municipal Building. For more information, call the Department of Neighborhoods at 684-0464. ♻️



Mayor Paul Schell joined Jeanne Hale and Coco Sherman in presenting Good Neighbor awards at the Laurelhurst Community Center.

Neighborhoods Committee to hold community meetings



Councilmember Richard Conlin

Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin, chair of the Neighborhoods, Sustainability and Community Development Committee, has scheduled evening committee meetings at community sites throughout the year. At each meeting, the Committee will take the public's comments on the implementation of neighborhood plans in that sector and other issues of concern to Seattle neighborhoods.

Mark your calendar now to attend a meeting in your area. Information on meeting locations will be available approximately one month in advance.

March 27	NE Sector: University District meeting
April 10	SW Sector: Westwood or Delridge meeting
May 8	West Sector: Queen Anne or Magnolia meeting
June 12	SE Sector: Rainier Valley meeting
July 10	NW Sector: Greenwood meeting
August 14	East Sector: Capitol Hill meeting
September 11	NE Sector: Lake City meeting
October 9	SW Sector: Admiral or West Seattle Junction meeting
November 27	West Sector: Downtown meeting
December 11	SE Sector: Beacon Hill meeting

All of these meetings are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For more information, call Tye Ferrell, Elaine Ko, or Phyllis Shulman at 684-8805. For information about neighborhood plans and their implementation, call the Department of Neighborhoods at 684-0464 or go to cityofseattle.net/don on the Web. ☎

Every Seattle neighborhood could have salmon and soul

By Sheila Kelly, *Soul Salmon Project*

Bring home a salmon — a BIG one — to your neighborhood! An innovative and ambitious project called SoulSalmon 2001 wants to put 100 eight-foot long and artfully decorated fiberglass salmon on display in public sites all around Puget Sound this summer. Seattle neighborhoods are prime spawning grounds.

This grassroots public art project is designed to raise awareness of salmon, involve communities and support local artists. The fish blanks, a male or female coho, designed by Chimacum artist Tom Jay and produced in Port Townsend, can be delivered to your door. You can design and decorate them in any way your community wants using any artist your want, then display them from June to November. A map will be developed to show the "sighting" locations throughout the region.

For examples of the decorated fish, check out the SoulSalmon photo gallery at www.soulsalmon.org on the Web. The Web site also includes a comprehensive salmon curriculum.

The cost to neighborhoods is about \$5,000 per fish. This includes the blank (\$2,000–\$2,500), an honorarium for the artist (\$1,500), and materials and other expenses (\$1,000). The project is eligible for a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple Projects Fund award. Jackson Place has already sent in their application!

For more information, call Shireen Deboo, Department of Neighborhoods, at 684-0547 or send e-mail to shireen.deboo@ci.seattle.wa.us. For guidelines on placement of fish on City park property, call Pam Kliment, Seattle Parks and Recreation, at 684-7556 or send e-mail to pamela.kliment@ci.seattle.wa.us. For more information about SoulSalmon 2001, call Sheila Kelly at 365-7892, send e-mail to kellysea@aol.com, or go to www.soulsalmon.org on the Web. ☎

Tree Fund to put over 650 new trees on Seattle streets

The Department of Neighborhoods' Tree Fund received 41 applications from neighborhoods throughout Seattle. Deliveries of eight different species, including Himalayan Birch and Chinese Dogwood, will be made in April.

This round of planting will put over 650 new trees on Seattle streets, bringing the total number contributed by the Department of Neighborhoods in the past four years to over 8,850.

The Tree Fund is a component of the Neighborhood Matching Fund. The next Tree Fund application deadline is Friday, August 3. For more information, call

Shireen Deboo at 684-0547 or Laurie Ames at 684-0320, drop in at your local Neighborhood Service Center, or go to cityofseattle.net/don/trees/Trees.htm on the Web. ☎

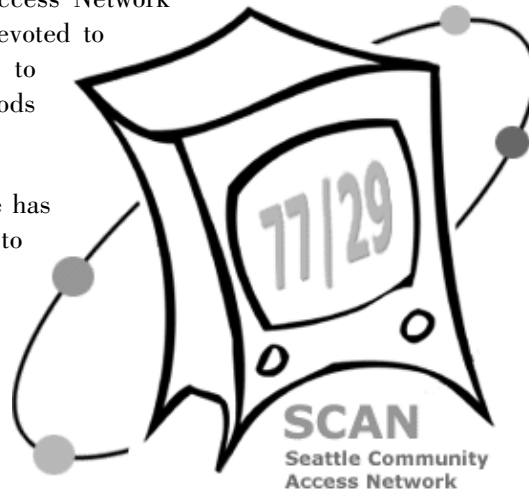
Your community television channel

By Ann Suter, Seattle Community Access Network

Want to see your local neighborhood issues explored on television? Want to create informative public service programs that will help citizens use community resources? Want to learn how to tell your story through digital media? The Seattle Community Access Network (SCAN) is a new local non-profit devoted to helping you use electronic media to reach residents in your neighborhoods and communities.

For over 20 years, the City of Seattle has required cable franchise holders to provide free channel television for city government, formal education, and the general public. Since it was first created, the cable companies have managed the public access channel.

Now, under a new arrangement made with ATT Broadband and the City of Seattle, SCAN will be offering the use of commercial grade television equipment, appropriate introductory training, and television airtime on Channel 77 to non-commercial television producers.



Additionally, SCAN will offer production opportunities to other community non-profits or local groups with special assistance. It all happens at the Northwest Access and Production Center where residents can get free use of studios, edit suites, and portable equipment and arrange to air your program.

This is a great opportunity for community clubs to create a short video about their neighborhoods, neighborhood histories, and important community features. Here is a chance for groups who want to explore local community issues to get airtime and a studio for a live, call-in show. Are you working with a local arts group? SCAN offers you a way to document the vision and effort you are making and share it with the public. Want to create your bit of history, Ken Burns' style? SCAN can help you learn to use the equipment, edit your footage, and add graphics and audio for a piece that tells your tale.

To learn more about community television, call the Northwest Access and Production Center at (206) 522-4758 or go to www.cityofseattle.net/ch29/index.html on the Web.

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Jim Diers, Director
Paul Schell, Mayor

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Irene Stewart

Department of Neighborhoods
700 3rd Ave., Ste 400 • Seattle WA 98104
ph: 615-0950 TDD: (206) 684-0464

Accommodations for persons with disabilities provided upon request.

ph: 684-0464

BIG BUCKS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS!

Mayor Schell and the City Council have increased the Neighborhood Matching Fund to \$4.5 million in 2001.

Over 1,800 projects have already been created by neighborhood volunteers through this popular program — parks, public art, banners, P-Patch gardens, playgrounds, open space preservation, facility renovations, traffic circles, street trees, neighborhood histories, creek restoration, and many other kinds!

Want to learn more? Plan now to attend the

Neighborhood Matching Fund Ideas & Networking Fair

Saturday, May 19 • 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway

Workshops will be presented by Neighborhood Matching Fund staff and neighborhood activists who have already completed projects. For more information, call Sandy Brooks at 684-0719, send e-mail to sandy.brooks@ci.seattle.wa.us, or go to cityofseattle.net/don/ on the Web.



City of Seattle
Department of
Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Matching Fund

Next application deadlines:

Monday, March 19 • Monday, May 21 • Monday, July 16

Rebecca Herzfeld to oversee neighborhood plan implementation

Rebecca Herzfeld, a strategic director for the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU), has been hired to head up the Neighborhood Preservation and Development Division at the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. Herzfeld replaces Anne Fiske Zuniga, who is now deputy director of SeaTran, Seattle's transportation department.

In her new position, Herzfeld will oversee implementation of 38 neighborhood plans, the City's historic preservation program, and community involvement in facility planning for schools and major institutions.

Herzfeld has 20 years of urban planning, policy development, and permit administration experience

including nine years as director of DCLU's land use division. She wrote Seattle's original major institution regulations, worked to protect key historic structures and districts from the impacts of new development, and helped implement neighborhood plans, so she is familiar with programs she will be administering.



"Rebecca is skilled at putting plans into action and working where the rubber hits the road," said Jim Diers, director of the Department of Neighborhoods. "She brings a passion for Seattle's neighborhoods and she is eager to put her considerable skills, knowledge, and connections to work to make them even more vibrant."

Herzfeld is a Capitol Hill resident. In 1977 she graduated from the University of Washington *cum laude* in urban planning and in 1994 completed the public executive program at the Cascade Center for Public Service. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and is a former president of Friends of the Seattle Public Library.



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*Why is Jim Diers talking to this salmon?
Find out on page six...*